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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 STOCKHOLM 000321

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [UN](#) [EU](#) [IZ](#) [SE](#)  
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON ICI PROGRESS IN STOCKHOLM

REF: STOCKHOLM 310

Classified By: DCM Robert Silverman for reasons 1.4 (B) & (D).

¶1. (C) Summary: Belfrage said the main message to send out of the ICI is that Europe has turned the page on Iraq and is now looking forward. (He commented that while it might be difficult to get European FMs to say this publicly, their attendance would send the right signal.) At the April 29 GAERC luncheon, FM Bildt urged foreign minister ICI participation, and received general support, but no new commitments. The Arab League Secretary General plans to attend the ICI. He reiterated the request for the U.S. support to on both European and Gulf Arab FM attendance. End summary.

IRFFI

¶2. (C) On April 30, the DCM discussed recent events surrounding the ICI with MFA State Secretary Frank Belfrage and MFA Director for the Middle East Peter Tejler. The DCM delivered a solid message to Belfrage that the U.S. agrees with Iraq DPM Barham Salih that the IRFFI should not be held around the ICI. Belfrage understood the message. Tejler added that there should be a development perspective at the ICI, and suggested discussion of the UNDP Report on Iraq as a good alternative to IRFFI.

ICI Message and Agenda

¶3. (C) Belfrage said Amb. Trouve met with PM Maliki and DPM Barham Salih over the weekend in Iraq. Maliki seemed to understand the importance of showing progress prior to the ICI, and told Trouve that election legislation will be ready, and the hydrocarbon legislation, while not complete, will show real progress and a sense of direction. The Swedes want the ICI to send a strong message of Iraqi progress, including:

- Iraq is on its way to mending internal fences.
- The role of the central government is strengthening.
- The international community supports the steps Iraq is taking.
- Europe has turned the page on Iraq and is now looking forward. (Belfrage commented that it will be hard to get European FMs to say this, but their attendance would send the right signal.)

¶4. (C) The Swedes told us that according to a distributed rough draft of the UN ICI Agenda, the current timeline is as follows:

- 10.00: Opening remarks by UN Secretary General, followed by Welcome Note by PM Reinholdt, then an address by PM Maliki or Barham Salih.

-- Lunch.  
-- Speeches by delegations represented at the ministerial level.  
-- 17.30: End of conference, press event immediately follows.  
-- 19.00: Reception hosted by PM Reinfeldt, with possible guest appearance by King Carl XVI Gustav.

EU/GAERC

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¶5. (C) The Swedes continue to push EU members to send FMs to the ICI. Belfrage said a large number of FMs will send a potential message to the EU Commission and facilitate a positive response. FM Carl Bildt urged high-level ICI attendance at the GAERC FM luncheon. The European FMs liked the idea, but have not yet committed, according to Belfrage. The May 26 GAERC will discuss the ICI in greater detail; meanwhile, EU working groups will have begun to hammer out the policy details regarding the ICI. Having major EU member FMs in attendance is the best way to get an EC deliverable, Belfrage concluded.

Attendance Update

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¶6. (C) Belfrage said that it is hard to predict the attendance at this point, but after the Neighbor Conference in Kuwait, there is a greater sense of need to show a good neighbor presence. Belfrage noted that Arab League Secretary General, Amre Mousa, will attend and will urge other Arab nations to send FMs.

Comment

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¶7. (SBU) The Swedes would like to target the FMs of two neighbor countries for advocacy: Turkey's Ali Babacan and Saudi Arabia's Saud Al Faisal.  
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